Voluntary Planning

1987 Annual Meeting

Nova Scotia

Halifax N.S.
May 19, 1987

VOLUNTARY PLANNING

1987 ANNUAL REPORT

Halifax, Nova Scotia
May 19, 1987

This volume is the collection of Annual Reports of each Sector and Committee active within Voluntary Planning during 1986-1987. At the Annual Meeting, each Sector Chairman will present the report in its essence. The purpose of the Annual Meeting of Voluntary Planning is threefold:

- To inform both volunteers and government of the current activity in all sectors of Voluntary Planning;
- To outline direction for 1987-1988;
- To recognize the contributions of all volunteers and particularly those of retirees.

The Agenda for the May 19, 1987 meeting is incorporated in this volume.

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Mr. Allan Shaw will present his report at the Annual Meeting. Copies will be available at that time.

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Murray Nicoll

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VOLUNTARY PLANNING - ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 19, 1987

World Trade & Convention Centre
Highland Suite

AGENDA

8:30	**Registration** and Coffee - Highland Suite
8:55	**Welcome** Chairman Allan C. Shaw
	Opening Remarks Hon. Roland J. Thornhill
9:00	**Sector Reports** Agriculture Forestry Fisheries Mining Energy Transportation
10:00	**Coffee Break**
10:15	**Sector Reports** Manufacturing Construction Professional Services Industry Research & Development Committee Human Resources
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11:45	Land Resources Coordinating Council (Video Presentation)
12:30	**Cash Bar** Port Royal Room 'D'
1:00	**Lunch** Port Royal Room 'D'
	Chairman's Address
	Presentations to Retirees
	Closing Remarks Premier John Buchanan

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BOARD OF VOLUNTARY PLANNING
1986-1987

Chairman	Allan Shaw
Vice Chairman	Pat Ellis
Chairman, CORE Committee	David Large

Sector Chairmen

Agriculture	Dean Hennigar
Construction	Ed McNeil
	Murray Nicoll
Energy	Gary Croswell
Fisheries	Wayne Thorbourne
Forestry	Brian Gilbert
Human Resources	Peter O'Brien
Land Resources Coordinating Council	Hugh Fairn
Manufacturing	Len Perry
Cape Breton Segment	Bob Ojolick
Cumberland/Colchester/Pictou Segment	Malcolm Mathews
South Shore Segment	Jim Sapp
Valley Segment	Sandy Archibald
Mining	Nick Oldale
Professional Services Industry	Hector Jacques
Research and Development	Tom Guildford
Taxation	Ed Harris
Tourism	Bob Cocks
Transportation	Gerry Martin
Voluntary Associations for Community Development	James Francois

Organization Representatives

Bakery, Confectionrery and Tobacco Workers' Union	Rene Quigley
Federal Government Dockyard and Labour Council	Ross Isenor
Mainland Nova Scotia Building and Construction Trades	Bruce MacDonald
Nova Scotia Cooperative Council	Erik Meek

Organization Representatives (cont'd.)

Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture	Lloyd Evans (to Dec./86)
	John Vissers (from Dec./86)
Offshore Trade Association of Nova Scotia	John Smith
Technical University of Nova Scotia	J. C. Callaghan
Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia	Glen Squires

Members At Large

Gerry Amirault
Dr. Ewart Blanchard
Hank Bryce
Ernie Cadegan
Bob Cameron
Ray Carman
John Dechman
John Dick
John Dickey
Don Downe
Dan Eisenhauer
Major Don Fillmore
Howard Fuller
Ruth Goldbloom
Dr. George Holbrook
Susan Jackson
Bob Killam
Walter Kontak
Isabel MacAulay-Jones
Reg MacAusland
Peter MacLellan
Keith MacRae
Gordon Tidmarsh
Peter Wilson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1986-1987

Allan Shaw	Chairman
Pat Ellis	Vice-Chairman
David Large	Chairman, CORE Committee
Bob Cocks	Chairman Tourism Sector
Hugh Fairn	Chairman Land Resources Coordinating Council

STAFF
1986-1987

Lance Hale	Executive Director (to Aug./86)
Brian Gallivan	(Acting) Executive Director (Sept./86)
Richard Shaffner	(Acting) Executive Director (Sept. - Nov./86)
Naomi Blanchard	Executive Director (Dec. 1/86 on)
John MacGregor	Sector Coordinator
Peter Giffin	Sector Coordinator
Peggy Tibbo-Cameron	Sector Coordinator
Sergio Greguoldo	Sector Coordinator
Ruby Watson	Secretary
Dale Rushton	Secretary

AGRICULTURE SECTOR

I am pleased to once again address Voluntary Planning members on Nova Scotia's Agriculture industry.

The industry can be characterized as a diverse, science-driven, highly productive sector producing a large proportion of the foods consumed locally, as well as for export markets.

Many people probably do not realize that Nova Scotia is second only, if not equal, to Ontario in product range. There is commercial production of virtually all Canadian agricultural products here in Nova Scotia.

This product diversity is one reason why, despite the less than ideal prices (for some commodities) and growing season, farm receipts for 1986 were up 3.9% ($267.3 million total) over 1985.

Last year, I reported our strategy paper "Agriculture Tomorrow" was well received by the agriculture community and the provincial government. Since then, we continue to follow-up on the recommendations within the paper. The paper has also been used as a background document for the talks currently ongoing between producer organizations, the Dept. of Agriculture & Marketing, and Agriculture Canada which will lead to the next five-year federal-provincial agreement on agriculture development.

The Sector's prime issue of concern this past year has been Free Trade. In October, members met with Mr. Fred Dickson, Chief Provincial Negotiator, and Mr. Bob Doherty and Mr. Greg Bent, of the Department of Development, to discuss free trade issues/concerns.

Since this meeting members have been developing an overall industry position paper. As most of you are aware from meetings, discussions and talks within your sectors, this is not an easy task.

The members agree the strength of our industry lies in its numbers of committed owner-operators, and in its wide range of products; therefore, the Sector supports a position of **"enhanced trade on a commodity-by-commodity basis".**

This position allows those commodities which would enhance trade to pursue opportunities as those producers/producer organizations see fit.

If free trade were to occur in its fullest meaning, commodities currently operating in a supply management system would be devastated. In Nova Scotia, supply-managed commodities represent 50% of the local production; their loss would obviously have a tremendous negative impact on the provincial economy. The Sector feels any free trade agreement must have provisions for a 10-15 year implementation phase for any sectors which may need the longer time frame.

As a producer, I am pleased to see government has introduced legislation which will require registration and licensing of all-terrain vehicles. The current situation of unlicensed vehicles places a near impossible task of identifying vehicles responsible

for damage to fields, crops, etc. on the farmer. However, licensing and registration is only a first step; there is a large educational component which must be addressed. The education must encompass not only the safe handling of an ATV, but also respect for the landowner's property and source of livelihood.

Finally, as in the past, we look forward to the continued cooperation and assistance of both federal and provincial government departments, producers of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, and all commodity groups in working together to realize a common vision of this industry's potential. I thank all of the aforementioned for their contributions and efforts in our past works.

In closing, I would like to state the producers' long term goal has not changed from last year. The goal is still to obtain their total income from the marketplace rather than from various means of government subsidies. A recent EEC (European Economic Community) report indicated that in order to give out $1.00 in support, $2.00 had to be collected. I suggest this holds true for Canada also, and it is not a cost-effective means of doing business.

Dean Hennigar
Chairman

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

The Sector comprises representatives of the construction industry, who come from the Design and Construction Institute, and the Building Trades Councils.

The Institute comprises members of the design professions (engineering and architecture) and construction management, whereas the Trades Councils of Mainland Nova Scotia and of Cape Breton comprise representatives from the various building and construction trades.

The Sector currently has two Co-Chairmen, Eddie MacNeil, of the Cape Breton Building Trades Council and Murray Nicoll, professional engineer.

Last summer the Sector held its first meeting in Sydney, Cape Breton - a successful venture attended by additional construction industry representatives from that area. The meeting heard remarks on the future of coal from Derek Rance, President of Devco, from Ian Stott of the Cape Breton Board of Trade and from Len McNeil on Enterprise Cape Breton. With the success of that meeting, the Sector will meet again in Sydney this year in June.

One of the Sector's main thrusts over the last two years has been the development of a Provincial Building Code, based on the National Building Code. Committees of the Sector have been at work, initially assisting in the development of a new Act. The Hon. David Nantes, Minister of Municipal Affairs, successfully steered the New Act through the legislature last summer. Last fall, members of that committee were invited to form the Building Code Advisory Committee, together with other representatives from the industry. This Advisory Committee worked through the fall and winter, assisting the Minister in the development of regulations. The Act and its associated regulations were proclaimed on April 1st. Now the province has effective building standards which apply in all municipalities.

The Sector has under review the proposed Transportation and Roads Infrastructure Program (TRIP). The effect of fiscal restraint has cut funding available for railroads, highways and municipal infrastructure (streets, water and sewer systems), resulting in diminished maintenance programs, particularly on highways and roads, but is equally applicable underground.

The Program in this province is being promoted by the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association who have sought the Sector's help. The Sector will be providing a paper in the near future on the Program, particularly relating to:

1. Economic benefits
   - stabilization of transportation costs;
   - job creation in the construction industry;

2. Infrastructure benefits in highways, railroads, and municipal infrastructure;

3. Funding scenario to cover these capital expenditures.

From the data available, this Program is necessary; the present condition of the provincial infrastructure impacts on all sectors of the economy, and implementation of the TRIP program can only result in benefits.

The Sector is about to undertake an overview of the industry, and this will form the main thrust over the next year or more. To be viable, the industry must be competitive with national elements and improvements are needed in various areas:

- New technology to stabilize construction costs and to improve completion schedules. (Time is money to a developer.);
- Technological training for building trades and design professionals;
- "De"-regulations: four provincial departments affect and regulate the industry - Labour, Municipal Affairs, Environment and Transportation; four others affect the industry - Government Services, Housing, Development, Vocational and Technical Training.

The Sector continues to monitor activities in areas which were the focus of attention in recent years.

- Provincial Government procurement procedures;
- The implementation of the "White Paper" on Economic Development;
- Free trade discussions and their potential impact on our industry;
- Metric conversion.

Ed McNeil
Murray Nicoll
Co-chairmen

CORE COMMITTEE

The CORE Committee is the committee of Voluntary Planning which has the current specific responsibility of monitoring implementation of the White Paper on Building Competitiveness (1984). Within this overall mandate, a number of specific exercises have been undertaken during the last year, each of which was related to implementation of aspects of the White Paper.

During the development of the government's public sector purchasing policy, extensive consultation was undertaken with the CORE Committee. A great deal of interest and concern was expressed by the committee, particularly in relation to the practical implications of this policy for businesses in the province as well as the current context of a pending free trade agreement. The worsening of interprovincial trade barriers was of major concern as was the procurement of services.

The committee made several recommendations to government and was most encouraged to see these incorporated in the final version of the policy released in December, 1986.

The annual meeting of the committee with the White Paper Implementation Committee (Ministers of Development, Management Board, and Vocational and Technical Training) took place in April, 1987. This was preceded by internal committee review of the status of implementation of all White Paper aspects. The committee, while accepting Ministers' responses and explanations for current status, will continue to monitor further progress for at least one more year.

Accomplishments in implementation to date include the comprehensive and continuing development of the Department of Vocational and Technical Training's responsibilities; the establishment of the regional Small Business Advisory Centres; and some initial rationalization of programs into the Community Development Branch of the Department of Development.

We are pleased with the government's commitment to implementation of the White Paper, however, continuing areas of concern relate to lack of progress in developing and promoting management training courses, and slow progress in reducing excessive regulation and paper burden.

David Large
Chairman

ENERGY SECTOR

The past eight months has seen an expansion of the Sector to include a wider representation of members-at-large together with identified institutions and government agencies with a specific interest in energy matters.

As was reported at the last Annual Meeting the Sector planned to review the Department of Mines and Energy's publication "Energy Plan 1985" which had just been released.

The review of this comprehensive study required the full efforts of the Sector members until the latter part of December past, when a report and recommendations were made to the Minister of Mines and Energy.

The Sector determined that "Energy Plan 1985" was a misnomer since it did not set priorities, specific targets or time schedules. It was found, however, to be an excellent "discussion document" which could adequately serve as a basis for a true "Plan". Its major shortcoming was identified as its failure to address the economics of the various energy sources. It tended to treat resources as a social support system, (i.e. employment) versus economic realities, (i.e. cost to the consumer).

Since the "Energy Plan 1985" is based on the assumption that coal will play an ever increasing part in the generation of electrical energy in Nova Scotia, the Sector requested that Mr. Derek Rance, President of the Cape Development Corporation, address the members on the operations and future plans of the Corporation.

He consequently attended a joint meeting of the Mining and Energy Sectors in late January and presented a frank and detailed overview of the Corporation and its aims.

The Sector has now identified approximately fifteen (15) topics which they feel require discussion and review, including such items as the generation of power by the NSPC and its pricing, the environmental cost of burning coal, security of supply, etc. No doubt more discussion will result in even more topics for consideration.

Although Sector members are in the midst of assigning priorities to the list, it was agreed that electrical power generation deserved examination as a first step. Consequently Mr. Louis Comeau, President of NSPC, addressed the Sector last month on the future plans of the Corporation.

As you can see, the Sector has not been idle and in view of the members' demonstrated interest, meetings will continue to be held at the present level of one per month, for the forseeable future.

Gary Croswell
Chairman

FISHERIES SECTOR

The Fisheries Sector is one of the only groups in the province representative of all areas of the fishing industry including small and large processors, inshore and offshore fishermen, fisheries associations, boat builders and government officials.

In the past, the sector has made many of its recommendations directly to the Federal Government due to the jurisdictional restrictions on the industry. However, in recent months, members have discussed the effectiveness of the committee and have reached the conclusion that the members' time would be better spent on matters relating to the provincial government. Therefore, at least for the new year, the sector will spend 90% of its time on provincial issues.

The fishing industry is possibly the only sector in Nova Scotia which is dominant within the canadian economy and of a significant scale even in the world.

Canada is the Number 1 fish exporting nation in the world in terms of export value and Nova Scotia is the Number 1 fishing province in this country, with over 25% of total production value. Fisheries is the largest exporting industry in Nova Scotia:

- Amounting to $610 million in 1986 exports, or 34% of all Nova Scotia exports;
- Exports of fish products to the United States account for 27% of all Nova Scotia exports;
- Fish product exports to the United States were $470 million in 1986, or 35% of all exports destined for the United States.

Fisheries is the largest employer and contributor to the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in the primary sectors in Nova Scotia.

- Unlike some industries (eg. services) which are located mainly in metropolitan regions, fishing and fish processing is highly dispersed throughout Nova Scotia;
- Moreover, fishing and fish processing activities rely heavily on materials and services produced "locally". To this extent, the fishing industry indirectly supports a great deal of economic activity in Nova Scotia.

It is for these reasons that the sector feels the committee would be more effective to target future activities on provincial issues.

During the past year, major issues dealt with included:

1. Discussion of the Nielson Task Force on fisheries programs;

2. Extensive discussions on free trade;

   The sector met on two occasions with the provincial trade negotiator, Mr. Fred Dickson, to discuss the implications of free trade on the industry and to provide Mr. Dickson with the overall concerns of the industry.

   Major concerns discussed were:

   a) protectionist actions initiated by U.S. industry
   b) access to Canadian stocks
   c) U.S. investment in the Canadian fishing industry
   d) tariff and non-tariff barriers
   e) landing rights for U.S. vessels
   f) Nicholson Act
   g) industrial assistance to industry

3. The sector also made recommendations concerning the Fisheries Loan Board;

4. Export of unprocessed fish to the U.S. and the ultimate loss of Nova Scotia jobs resulting from the exports;

5. Discussion on the number of new processing plants in Nova Scotia.

For the coming year the sector plans on concentrating on provincial issues, as previously mentioned. At our April meeting, we met with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Fisheries to discuss how our committee could better liaise with the department and become more effective. At the end of this month, the sector will again meet with the Honourable John Leefe and his deputy, Mr. Sandy MacLean. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the Minister with industry input in updating the Fisheries General Policy, as announced in the Speech from the Throne.

Earlier this year, I indicated my intent to step down as the Chairman of Fisheries Sector, therefore, at our end of the month meeting, we will be electing a new chairman.

I look forward to contined involvement with the Fisheries Sector and with Voluntary Planning and trust that the new direction of the Fisheries Sector will prove very beneficial.

Wayne Thorburne
Chairman

FORESTRY SECTOR

The Forestry Sector has been very active over the past twelve months having met six times to provide input into the cooperative planning process with government.

Last fall, the committee refined several recommendations involving the Third Generation Forestry Subsidiary Agreement which was announced in April. These recommendations were discussed in detail with the full Federal/Provincial Management Liaison Committee headed by John Mullally, Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests and R. E. Hanusiak, Director-General of the Canadian Forestry Service. We were well received by this committee, and they indicated our brief would receive every consideration in development of the Agreement.

Committee membership has been an ongoing topic of discussion. Members are very cognizant of the need to have all forest interests represented while maintaining a balanced and manageable size. The Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association were admitted to the Committee during the past year, and Nova Scotia Forest Products Association is now officially represented.

A request for support was received from LRCC's Fire Prevention Sub-Committee, and approved, to endorse their plan to set up a perpetual fund of $50,000 as a reward for conviction of any one committing an act of arson in Nova Scotia.

The committee recommended to the Minister of Lands and Forests the "red spruce" be adopted by the Province as one of Nova Scotia's official symbols.

The Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests, in concert with the Department of Development, briefed the Committee in detail on the potential impacts of Free Trade on our Sector. We surveyed our members on their concerns, but found the subject matter "too broad" to come to a satisfactory resolution. Fred Dickson, Nova Scotia's Negotiator in the Free Trade discussions also explained the process and the timeframe negotiators are working towards.

A Workers' Compensation Board representative spoke on the new rate structure for varying forest interests and the number of claims received over the past year.

The Department of Labour and Manpower, Accident Protection Division outlined the scope of Forestry accidents during 1986 and the impact on the Sector. The need for improved worker education to prevent accidents will be explored in the coming months.

The committee reviewed a draft Terms of Reference for the sector outlining operations and membership. This will require further discussion before being finalized.

Concern has been raised over the efforts of a number of municipal units to pass by-laws regulating spraying operations, particularly aimed at Christmas Tree operations. A "watching brief" is being kept on the situation at the present.

Our Committee has enjoyed a very productive year, and we are looking forward to reviewing existing forestry education programs over the coming months.

Brian Gilbert
Chairman

HUMAN RESOURCES SECTOR

During the past year, Mr. Bill Windeler completed a 32-month term as Chairman of the Human Resources Sector. Under Bill's chairmanship, the Sector was primarily involved in the preparation of a submission and response to the Royal Commission on Post Secondary Education.

In December, 1986, Peter O'Brien accepted the chairmanship of the Sector. After considerable input from the membership, the Sector revised its mode of operation and identified several important issues which will be dealt with over the next twelve to eighteen months.

Mode of Operation

Operate as a committee-of-the-whole

Regular monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month, excluding July and August

Produce position papers on the issues listed below:

- Community Colleges (submission to the Minister's Community College Study Committee February, 1987)
- Apprenticeship Training
- Investigation of the Vocational School System
- Cooperative Education
- Automation and Worker Displacement
- Illiteracy
- Entrepreneurship Model
- Continuing Education

Summary of Sector Activities During the Past Year

- Produced a comprehensive Sector response to the Report of the Royal Commission on Post Secondary Education which was presented to the Ministers of Education and Vocational and Technical Training;
- Presented the following recommendation to the Ministers of Education and Vocational and Technical Training:
  "that the Government of Nova Scotia proceed with all due speed to create a Council on Cooperative Education to comprise primarily of education institutions, business, commerce, industry, students and

labour, mandated to advise the Ministers of Education and Vocational and Technical Training on policies and strategies to develop cooperative education in Nova Scotia."

- Held a wide-ranging discussion with the Honourable Terence Donahoe, the then Minister of Vocational and Technical Training, concerning government's general plans for community colleges, cooperative education and apprenticeship training;

- Produced and presented a brief entitled, "Community Colleges, Nova Scotia is the Campus" to the Minister's Community College Study Committee;

- The Sector is currently studying the status and problems associated with the apprenticeship training in Nova Scotia which will lead to the production of a Sector position paper.

To date, the Sector has received discussion and information papers from:

- Bruce MacDonald, representing the Mainland Nova Scotia Construction and Building Trades;

- Peter Woods and John Patterson, Department of Vocational and Technical Training;

- On May 20, the Sector will receive an update report from Duncan Fraser, a consultant appointed by government to produce an independent study on the apprenticeship training program in Nova Scotia.

Peter O'Brien
Chairman

LAND RESOURCES COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Land Resources Coordinating Council (LRCC) of Voluntary Planning was formed in 1979 in response to a growing concern over the confrontation building between the owners and recreational users of land.

At first, the membership in the Council consisted of five of the six province-wide organizations who were most clearly identified with the problem.

Today, the Council represents some 38 provincial organizations with a combined membership of over 70,000 Nova Scotians. During the past year, LRCC has been actively developing a wide variety of policy recommendations and educational awareness programs that is best described in the devoted work of various committees, described below.

I Abandoned Rail Lines

This recently established sub-committee is tackling an area of increasing concern but also opportunity as long distances of rail lines will be abandoned over the next few years. The goal of the group is to develop a procedure whereby for each right-of-way, all interests are properly considered. Each line would be ultimately managed by local groups, with minimal day-to-day involvement by the province.

The following premises have been established:

1. That the province of Nova Scotia, through the Department of Lands & Forests, obtain title to the various railway rights-of-way, as they become available, in order that they may be used in the best possible interest of Nova Scotians;

2. That the integrity of the corridor be maintained; notwithstanding possibilities for local adjustment of the configuration of the rights-of-way, as well as varying uses and activities by leasing or other arrangements.

Emanating from these premises, the sub-committee is currently drafting a policy framework for decisions on re-use of abandoned rail lines in Nova Scotia. This will then be incorporated in a case study.

II Arson Prevention

The sub-committee has set October 1987 as its goal to launch a long-term arson prevention program designed to effectively:

1. Decrease the number of fires caused unlawfully and carelessly in Nova Scotia;

2. Develop and disseminate educational programs for delivery to law enforcers, crown attorneys, judges, general public and the school system;

3. Establish a reward system funded by voluntary subscriptions. Rewards will be paid in confidence by the RCMP to persons who provide information that leads to the arrest and conviction of a person who unlawfully sets a fire.

The underlying strength of this proposal is the coordinated efforts of LRCC, large and small landowners, the insurance industry, 302 Nova Scotian fire departments, Nova Scotia municipalities and appropriate government departments, etc.

III Clean Nova Scotia Foundation

Nova Scotia is generally recognized as being a beautiful province, a fact which is frequently attested to by many a visitor. Littering and other related abuses to the environment detract from this natural beauty. In recognizing the need to preserve the natural beauty of Nova Scotia for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike, the Land Resources Coordinating Council has been working on developing a long-term strategy to focus awareness and to coordinate activities to ensure that littering never becomes a significant problem.

In 1982, the Litter Prevention sub-committee of the Land Resources Coordinating Council commenced three successful "photo contests" involving the school system and the general public, under the theme: "The Beauty of Nova Scotia Spoiled by Litter".

In 1985, the Honourable Jack MacIssac, then Minister of Transportation, challenged LRCC to produce a long-term litter prevention strategy for Nova Scotia. In September of 1985, the sub-committee produced a discussion paper entitled, "Stop Litter - Program Suggestions" and circulated a questionnaire on littering to all members of Voluntary Planning for additional input.

In February 1987, the Voluntary Planning Board approved LRCC's "A Clean Nova Scotia Position Paper".

The establishment of a Foundation for a Clean Nova Scotia is being suggested in order to provide a long-term solution to what is essentially a long-term problem -- littering and associated abuses to property and the environment.

The Foundation will be structured as an ongoing, non-profit entity and will provide for longer term planning and action which should result in a more comprehensive and effective approach to dealing with the problem. The current cost of littering to municipalities, government, industry, service groups and the public in the terms of money, manpower and time is staggering. Although it is nearly impossible to determine the full costs, the amount of money being spent each year would certainly exceed by several times the amount to money required to fund the Foundation as proposed in this paper.

IV Conservation/Development

This sub-committee is undertaking the development of "A Framework for Implementing a Conservation/Sustainable Development Strategy for Nova Scotia". The objective is:

> To ensure the conservation of Nova Scotia's living environment through the implementation of sustainable modes of economic and natural resource development.

The goals are:

1. To maintain the ecological processes and life support systems which sustain Nova Scotia's renewable resources;

2. To preserve the diversity of genetic materials found in Nova Scotia's living environment; and

3. To ensure the sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems native to Nova Scotia.

A World Conservation Strategy was launched in 1980 amid the recognition that we cannot continue depleting resources at the current rate and still provide all options to succeeding generations. We are losing species, habitats, creating deserts and spoiling air and water at an unprecedented rate.

Nova Scotia's Conservation Strategy will accord with the World and Canadian Conservation strategies. It will ultimately assist those in all levels of government, including municipal, to allow development whilst recognizing conservation principles.

V Education

This sub-committee has been the group with the talents, creativity and connections which have produced quality school programs; brochures; newspaper, radio and TV awareness messages pertaining to good land use management principles and respect for the land.

This year has seen a significant achievement of the well-received "Off the Road Video and Grade 9 Teachers' Guide" - a nine-minute video for use by all Grade 9 classes commencing September 1987. The production of this teaching tool could not be more timely, given the proposed legislation for off-the-road vehicles.

VI Hazardous Waste Management

The Hazardous Waste Management sub-committee, formed in 1985, is a group of Nova Scotians drawn from heavy industry, university, transportation, forestry, agriculture, consulting, and municipal government of dangerous goods and hazardous wastes in the Province.

The primary objectives of the sub-committee are:

1. To increase the awareness and understanding of hazardous waste management issues throughout Nova Scotia through the Voluntary Planning organization;

2. To cooperate with and assist Provincial and Federal Government agencies in the development of educational and information programs related to the issue;

3. To monitor the work of Provincial and Federal Government agencies in regard to developing management strategies, assisting where possible; and

4. To act as a resource for other sectors of the Voluntary Planning organization which are concerned about dangerous goods and hazardous wastes.

In December 1986, the sub-committee presented a position paper to the Minister's Task Force on Hazardous Waste Management which highlighted the following recommendations.

1. The Provincial Department of Environment should clearly take the leadership role in developing and ultimately enforcing the regulations and guidelines which will be required for environmentally acceptable management strategies for dangerous goods and hazardous wastes in Nova Scotia.

2. That the Hazardous Waste Management sub-committee be used as a sounding board for ongoing public consultation when the Minister's Task Force is dissolved.

3. The Government should develop more effective and objective means for information transfer, in order to enhance the public's understanding of the complex hazardous waste management issues in Nova Scotia.

4. The Government is to be complimented for enacting an Act to Regulate Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Wastes in 1986. In developing regulations under this Act, the Government should carefully consider the cost implications to all sectors of society, and should work to develop equitable cost-sharing arrangements which are not based simply upon the quantities of wastes generated by various sectors. We recommend that the management responsibility and the costs be shared by industry and government.

5. The Government should embark on a program to ensure that adequate waste management strategies are available to all — including small (commercial, residential, agricultural) generators of dangerous goods and hazardous wastes. This will undoubtedly involve the establishment of a central repository for waste storage.

6. The Government should strive for flexibility in its development of regulations under the Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Wastes Management Act. Adequate provision should be made to allow for changes in the regulations which could reflect changes in scientific understanding or technological advances.

VII Land Information

This sub-committee is mandated to review the legal documentation system of our land resources. Mapping the registration of deeds, surveying and land inventory practices are all being studied.

On June 11, 1986, the Voluntary Planning Board approved the following recommendations presented by LRCC:

1. That the Land Titles Act be amended and proclaimed based on the experience obtained from the Land Titles Pilot project in Albert County, New Brunswick;

2. That the Land Titles Act be introduced within one area of Nova Scotia;

3. That the mapping in western Nova Scotia be completed.

These recommendations are being pursued with the Management Board of Nova Scotia.

VIII Legislation

After the success of the Act to Protect Property, in which LRCC participated very heavily, the need for further legislation has been recognized. A sub-committee has been established resulting from concerns expressed by our members. The sub-committee has recommended to the government legislation to register and regulate off-highway recreational vehicles that have become much more numerous and troublesome on both private and public lands.

The sub-committee is very pleased that the Minister of Transportation has introduced "An Act to Regulate Off-Highway Vehicles" in the legislature in April 1987.

This committee also reviewed and supports the already proclaimed but not enacted Trails Act. This support is given with one provision, and that is that the liability of occupiers and owners of land should not be affected by the giving of permission to trespass. This sub-committee has worked with the office of the Attorney General to prepare a proposed amendment to "An Act Respecting the Liability of Occupiers of Land" which, if considered, would totally remove the fear of liability from the mind of the landowner who grants the free use of his land to another.

This sub-committee has currently added additional user groups to its membership and plans to produce a position paper over the next few months, related to a Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy that is being considered by the Minister of Lands & Forests for legislation.

IX Sharing the Land

This sub-committee took as its mandate the need for a public displaying of the needs for sharing our limited land resource between all Nova Scotians - owners and users alike. They have arranged a program to show the public that we share the bounties of the land but that some depend on the land for a living, while others use the same land for recreation. There is a need for mutual understanding and respect. This sub-committee has arranged for a Sharing the Land Week each October, announced by the Premier. Displays and educational material are presented at fairs, exhibitions and shopping centres around the province.

Hugh Fairn
Chairman

MANUFACTURING SECTOR

The Manufacturing Sector, comprised of 5 Segment (Regional) Committees, has been reactivated after a lapse of over one year.

To determine the issues of concern to the industry, the Segment Chairman surveyed all members with the following priorities identified:

- Free Trade
- Municipal and Provincial Taxation Issues

  (Machinery & Equipment Tax)
- Transportation Impacts
- Department of Development Programs
- Review of the recommendations of the Forget Commission

Most Segment Committees have completed meetings with Mr. Fred Dickson, Provincial Negotiator in the Free Trade discussions. Members have been briefed on the background, current status and potential impacts on their economic sectors. The opportunity to provide recommendations and suggestions has been encouraged through Mr. Dickson.

Our Cape Breton Segment has received a detailed briefing on the new mandate of the Cape Breton Development Corporation by its President, Derek Rance. They are supporting Mr. Rance's five-year plan to develop the Agency into an economically viable corporation.

This Segment has also expressed concern with the deteriorating condition of the Grand Narrows Bridge which has caused weight restrictions to be imposed by CN Rail. This has caused transportation difficulties for many major firms including Cape Breton Development Corporation and SYSCO. Through the Voluntary Planning Board, the Segment has made a recommendation to the Premier that the Province and CN Rail enter into financial negotiations to build a new road/rail crossing to replace the existing rail bridge.

Members representing other V.P. Sectors from Cape Breton have been invited to join our Cape Breton Manufacturing Segment to discuss issues of mutual concern to all Islanders.

The Segment Chairmen meet regularly with the General Chairman following each Voluntary Planning Board Meeting to coordinate their efforts in becoming more proactive through the opportunity of our Voluntary Planning process.

A Draft Terms of Reference for the Manufacturing Sector has been prepared and is under review by the Segment Committees. This will assist in our operations and membership composition.

A review of the efforts of Manufacturing Committees from Canadian Manufacturers Association, Halifax Board of Trade, Construction Association of Nova Scotia and the Offshore Trade Association of Nova Scotia is being undertaken to ensure we work together and complement, rather than compete.

Len Perry
Chairman

MINING SECTOR

The Nova Scotia mining industry has been growing steadily for the past number of years and is presently undergoing an unprecedented exploration boom, primarily in gold. Some $20 million was spent in 1986, and this is expected to rise to $60 million in 1987. The bulk of this money has been raised locally by flow-through shares. One gold mine is presently being readied for production and two others are involved in underground development.

Led by the gold exploration boom, the mining industry has been very busy, although the Mining Sector of Voluntary Planning, per se, has been relatively inactive. This has been largely due to a high level of involvement by other mining sector organizations associated with Voluntary Planning.

The Mining Sector of Voluntary Planning includes some 20 members representing all facets of the minerals industry throughout the Province: exploration, mining, processing, manufacturing, consultants and service industries. The majority of its members are also active members of the Chamber of Mineral Resources of Nova Scotia and/or the Mining Society of Nova Scotia. Consequently, the Mining Sector of Voluntary Planning has a close association with these latter two organizations.

The Chamber of Mineral Resources, primarily a commercial organization that meets monthly, has undertaken for 1987 an extensive "Public Awareness and Mineral Promotion Project" at a cost of $25,000. This will include a brochure, a quarterly news digest, speakers list for schools and service clubs, a trade display, seminars and workshops.

The Mining Society of Nova Scotia, primarily a technical society, meets quarterly and this year is celebrating its 100th anniversary during its Annual General Meeting at Keltic Lodge, June 23 - 27, 1987. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney will be the keynote speaker. A special booklet on the history of mining in Nova Scotia and the Mining Society will be published.

The Mining Society of Nova Scotia was the outgrowth of the Nova Scotia "Goldminers Club" and in turn, is the founding Society of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Nova Scotia indeed has a renowned position in the history and development of the Canadian mining industry.

During the autumn of 1986, the Mining Sector of Voluntary Planning completed the final editing on its Mineral Strategy Report that was some four years in the making. This report was circulated in January, 1987. (Copies are available to any interested parties.)

The Sector also recommended the removal of the provincial 4% health service tax on mining machinery and equipment. This selective tax is a form of double taxation and recommendation for its removal of unanimously endorsed by Voluntary Planning at their February 1987 meeting. No indication of its removal, however, appeared in the spring budget despite a promise by the Mines and Energy Minister in June, 1986 to strongly support its abolition.

The Nova Scotia Museum has undertaken the development of an education resource kit about the mineral industry aimed at the junior high level. This kit will include mineral specimens, photos, video and a teachers' guide and will show day-to-day operation of open-pit and underground mines in Nova Scotia. This initiative is being supported and assisted in its development by the Chamber of Mineral Resources, the Mining Society of Nova Scotia and the Departments of Education and Mines and Energy.

The Mining Sector drafted its Mandate on April 16, 1987.

Nick Oldale
Chairman

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRY SECTOR

The Professional Services Industry Sector of Voluntary Planning has emerged as a result of the fact that within the provincial economy, services as a whole represent the major share of Gross Domestic Product (73.1%) and employment (75.1%; Statistics Canada, 1984). Professional services in science, engineering and high technology are a particularly important part of this service area.

"Job creation opportunities in the 1980's and 90's will primarily be in the area of services, information management and the advancement of new technology (Lloyd McGinnis, Chairman, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, 1987)." This Sector is not so handicapped as is the manufacturing sector, by being distant from large population centres. The employment resulting from service sector growth would have an especially significant impact on the economic fabric of the province as it is also a sector in which jobs are easily created in other than the large urban centres. Successful exploitation of these opportunities will require a strong, capable and competent Professional Services Industry Sector.

World trade in services has been growing at a rate of 12 to 15% per annum, as opposed to trade in goods at 6%. Many countries have recognized this; in particular the United States has stipulated an agreement in services is a requirement for a broader base trade agreement with Canada (Simon Reisman, Trade Negotiations Office).

This Sector of Voluntary Planning is composed of that part of the services sector where wealth creation is a distinct characteristic. Furthermore, it comprises those services that are tradeable and hence are in a position to expand beyond the general growth rate of the provincial Gross Domestic Product. At the Trade Strategy Forum, May, 1985, (Consulting Services Workshop) it was noted that Professional Services was the only sector that could and would increase exports well beyond the province's goal of doubling in five years. In fact, exports within the Sector have the potential to more than triple in the succeeding five years, and there are numerous firms in Nova Scotia exporting services to all corners of the globe.

Where government policy has been in concert with industry needs, there have been several notable Canadian successes. By similar actions in Nova Scotia, the development of this Sector can be accelerated to meet and exceed the national average. Even attaining the national average will double employment in this Sector.

The objectives of the Sector have been identified as:

1. To work for the betterment of the Nova Scotian community with the special contribution possible from the professional services industry;

2. To significantly increase awareness of the contribution made by the Professional Services Sector to economic development in the province;

3. To contribute to government policy development on broad interdisciplinary matters.

Tasks which are being undertaken by the various sub-committees are:

1. Implementation of the 1984 White Paper and Premier's Economic Conference (October, 1985) recommendations, relating to the contracting out of both government and private sector purchases of services. This will assist in developing a strengthened and expanded professional services industry which would be more capable and competitive in both domestic and export markets. This is particularly important in view of the relatively small size of the provincial market;

2. Rationalization of roles of public and academic sectors vis-a-vis the private sector in the utilization and provision of professional services;

3. Implications of free trade and breakdown of interprovincial barriers;

4. Procurement practices for professional services;

5. Taxation policy for service sector firms and the Quebec experience in equity raising issues for small firms;

6. Appropriate consideration for services in government programs as for manufacturing industries;

7. Improvement of the public knowledge and awareness of the Professional Services Sector as a place both to purchase services, as well as attract graduates to develop their careers in Nova Scotia;

8. Relation of Nova Scotia benefits commitments to a range of capital investments, similar to government-oil company arrangements for offshore exploration.

The Sector looks forward to working with government, in the excellent tradition of Voluntary Planning, towards the mutual benefits of the province and professional services.

Hector Jacques
Chairman

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

Last October (1986), the Research and Development Committee began developing a Research and Development Strategy for the province. However, the committee was sidetracked into a new issue by its second meeting.

Members were informed that a Nova Scotia Science Council was being planned, as outlined in the 1985 Speech from the Throne. Having a number of concerns, the committee submitted a letter to the Honourable R. Thornhill with recommendations on the proposed Science Council's role and membership.

Other than Mr. R. Fournier, Assistant Vice President (Research) of Dalhousie, being named as Chairman of the Council very little is still known of who members will be, and what its role will be.

For the record, the Research and Development Committee endorses and welcomes the notion of a Nova Scotia Science Council. A number of recommendations were made with respect to the structure, composition and mandate/activities of the Council.

Also, as Chairman of the Research and Development Committee, I was invited to a presentation of a study done by Peat Marwick and Partners for the Department of Transportation's Communications Division.

The study examined the use of information and communication technologies by local industries; as well as their infrastructure support requirements. The study makes a number of recommendations aimed at improving the local businesses' likelihood of assessing and using those information/communication technologies which will make them more competitive.

The Research and Development Committee, as should a number of Voluntary Planning Sectors, will examine the study further to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of the recommendations.

The Committee has undertaken a process of self-examination. This process will lead to the development of a focused terms of reference and mandate which to date, we have taken to be implicitly self-evident.

Finally, while words like high-tech, technology transfer, research and development, etc., have become synonymous with prosperity, we must keep in mind it is the commitment of numerous individuals which brings prosperity -- not the words.

Tom Guildford
Chairman

TAXATION COMMITTEE

During the year, the Taxation Committee continued to concentrate on provincial government finances and, in particular, on its concerns regarding the government's chronic deficits. It was able to maintain the dialogue that it had commenced earlier with the provincial Minister of Finance, Honourable Greg Kerr.

In the late spring, the Committee commenced a detailed review of the report of the Task Force on Investment and Taxation. It communicated to Mr. Kerr its preliminary reaction to this report and indicated that it intended to make detailed representations in the fall. After conclusion of its review in the fall, the Committee provided to Mr. Kerr a ten-page submission, giving its reaction to virtually all of the 44 recommendations made by the Task Force, and reiterating the Committee's concerns with the state of provincial government finances.

Subsequently, the Committee met with Mr. Kerr and some of his senior officials and was able to have a very useful discussion on most of the matters raised in the Committee's submission.

Subsequent meetings of the Committee continued to be concerned particularly with government finances and addressed the question of what representations should be made to government that might have an influence on the next provincial budget. some difficulties were experienced in early 1987 in the Committee's attempts to arrange a meeting with Mr. Kerr and Honourable George Moody, Chairman of Management Board.

Meanwhile steps were proceeding, through the efforts of Mr. Allan Shaw, Chairman of Voluntary Planning, to arrange a meeting with the Premier and senior cabinet ministers on provincial government finances, which this Committee had recommended a year ago. Such a meeting was finally arranged for late February and was preceded by a discussion of these questions at the Voluntary Planning Board meeting of February 12.

The meeting with the Premier and senior cabinet members took place on February 27 and was attended by representatives of the Taxation Committee as well as the Executive Committee of Voluntary Planning. We thought that, even though brief, the meeting was very useful in enabling us to bring our concerns very directly to the attention of key decision makers in the provincial government. The meeting was followed by a letter from Mr. Shaw to the Premier summarizing the points that we had made.

The Committee continued to deliberate its strategy with respect to the expected provincial budget and also what approach it should take to the promised Nova Scotia stock savings plan, details of which were still not available.

After the budget was delivered on April 10, the Committee met again to consider its reaction to formulate its thoughts for purposes of a possible submission by Voluntary Planning. Mr. Shaw was present at this meeting and participated in a very useful dialogue concerning the role of Voluntary Planning and of the Taxation Committee

and the extent to which it was appropriate for the Committee's efforts to be made public. The Committee was generally pleased with the emphasis placed in the budget on bringing the provincial deficit under control and hopes to continue its dialogue on this question with the Minister of Finance.

Depending upon when details of the Nova Scotia stock savings plan are made available, the Committee hopes to have a meeting before its summer recess to discuss this plan.

E. C. Harris
Chairman

TOURISM SECTOR

I opened last year by saying "In accordance with our desire to chart the future course of the industry we published, in 1981, the Tourism Development Strategy, which emphasized the need for better products and more professionalism. These were to be achieved through three approaches: a classification system; training and education to remedy the personnel inadequacies revealed by the rating system; and low cost funds to correct the physical defects so unearthed."

Now, a year later, I can say that the classification system, though not in place, is definitely on the way. The Tourism and Hospitality Institute exists to oversee education and training. And the low cost funds are there in the form of the Atlantic Enterprise Program and the Federal/Provincial Tourism Sub-Agreement. A new Committee comprising Voluntary Planning, TIANS, the Area Tourist Directors, and the Federal/Provincial Management Committee has recently met and will continue to review the status of the Agreement on a cooperative basis.

What is recommended and will be recommended is a Nova Scotia Tourism Board of private operators, appointed by the government, to operate the classification system, to direct the Tourism and Hospitality Institute and to act as the Nova Scotia Tourism Loan Board. This concept has been recommended by the Tourism Sector Committee to government for several years as central to providing a basis for future development of the industry in Nova Scotia.

Give us a Tourism Board of private entrepreneurs, with the authority to manage the bucks and we will make tourism the growth industry of the province.

Last year I confirmed "While thus attending to the needed improvement of the existing plant, designed over the years to service visitors who arrive by automobile and recreation vehicle, we started to look at the market represented by those who prefer to do their vacation travelling by air. The need to penetrate this latter market was indicated by the statistics which showed that the returns from our traditional market stopped rising in 1985 and had remained stable since that date. This was in contrast to a continually growing industry in the rest of the western world."

To clearly define the potential for industry development in the coming year, the Sector had five subcommittees prepare reports on: exploitation of mass mode markets; development of tax incentive programs; transportation systems; government/industry structure of the Nova Scotia tourism industry; and analysis of upgrading of facilities. Several of these sub-committees have prepared reports which are being studied by the Sector Committee.

Jumbo jet-loads of visitors can only be properly attended to with the full range of facilities available at a resort such as an organized vacation community. Once again referring to last year's statement: "convinced that resort and especially vacation community development will need to be joint public/private activities, we started a program to demonstrate the benefits that accrue to a community by encouraging tourism development. So far we have completed economic impact studied in Parrsboro and Baddeck and we are currently involved with Liverpool and Queens County."

Our subcommittee reviewing potential tax incentive programs have applied, jointly with the Department of Tourism, for funding under the Tourism Subsidiary Agreement for a professional study to determine:

a) the relationship between taxation, tourist industry revenues and government revenues;

b) which tax changes may be beneficial to the tourism industry by increasing revenues for reinvestment in the industry. This would lead to more tourism development resulting in increased government revenues and a more internationally competitive Nova Scotia tourism product.

This study has been approved. Calls for proposals will be issued this month.

Bob Cocks
Chairman

TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

The members of the Transportation Sector Committee of Voluntary Planning are representatives of road, rail, air and water modes of transportation. In addition, the representatives from the Atlantic Provinces Transportation Commission (APTC) and the Canadian Manufacturers Association (CMA) provide us with resource information on national, as well as provincial matters.

During the past twelve months the following were some of the issues dealt with by the committee:

1. **The Freedom to Move White Paper and the National Transportation Act, 1986, and its companion the Motor Vehicle Transport Act, 1986**

   The committee continued to support the APTC position on the Freedom to Move Paper and when legislation was introduced in Parliament, the contents were discussed by our committee. It was noted that the legislation generally received positive response across Canada.

2. **Liability Insurance**

   The committee discussed this issue because most segments of the industry were very concerned with higher rates, lower amounts of coverage and restrictive clauses, etc. It was felt that the issue was very complex but one that must be addressed by the government. Therefore, letters were sent to various provincial cabinet ministers outlining the broad concerns of liability insurance and suggesting the need for a task force to study and make recommendations.

3. **Nova Scotia Bill 99 - Amendment to the Motor Carrier Act**

   The committee wrote to the Attorney General recommending that the bill be consistent with the Maritime Premiers' Memorandum of Understanding and in line with legislation passed by the New Brunswick Government.

4. **Free Trade**

   Our committee arranged a joint meeting with the Manufacturing Sector and invited Mr. Fred Dickson, Provincial Negotiator on Free Trade as special speaker. The agenda included a question and answer period. The comments following the meeting indicated that the issue was more complex than they had anticipated.

5. **Transportation Aspects of the Nielsen Task Force**

The APTC representative made us aware that problems could result if the recommendations from the task force were implemented without private sector consultation. Therefore, on motion, the committee wrote to the Federal Minister of Transport expressing our concern.

6. **Brief from Parrsboro and Area Industries Development Commission**

The Executive Director of this commission attended our committee meeting and requested our support in having Highway No. 2 upgraded to a "Class B Highway". The matter was discussed in depth and on motion, the committee wrote a letter of support to the Provincial Minister of Transportation and also to the Minister of Development.

7. **Meeting with the Provincial Deputy Minister of Transportation**

Due to the fact that the committee felt that their recommendation made to the Department during the past 18 months should be reviewed, a meeting was arranged with the Deputy Minister. We were well received and all points were discussed. However, for the most part, our recommendations had been filed due to lack of funds and low priority.

8. **Other Issues**

The committee also discussed such items as hazardous waste, CNR repair shops, traffic disruption by road construction, fuel costs and a review of committee membership.

G. L. Martin
Chairman

VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A quick review of VACD's programs and activities for 1986 indicates an extremely busy period for this Sector. Some examples of functions undertaken were:

- Development of a community development support position paper;
- Completion of a development impact guidebook "Participating in Community Change";
- Input into the Joint Federal - Provincial Community Futures Committee.

In contrast, so far 1987 has been a year of reflection, leading to reorganizing and development of future strategies and direction.

One of the major factors which has affected VACD during this period is the renewed surge in the use of the term "community development" and the implications of community development as a contribution to overall economic development of the province. The formation of the Community Economic Development Branch within the Department of Development can be seen as a strong signal from the provincial government of its recognition and commitment to this strategy. VACD maintains close contact with the CED Branch through its director and other staff members.

We believe it is important for VACD to continue to input into this initiative and we look forward to working together with the new branch.

Our period of reorganization was certainly enhanced by the contribution of Mr. Jim Lotz. His papers and presentation on community development here and abroad have provided insights into the breadth and scope of Community Development, as being far more than just economic development.

A sub-committee called YCD? was created by VACD this year, to examine the Sector's goals and objectives. As a result of this committee's findings, we are proposing to start an information bulletin to ensure that a common definition and understanding of community development can be achieved in Nova Scotia. This common understanding will assist us in our goal of working with government on the rationalization of the programs delivery in Community Development.

We hope that the proposed name change from VACD to Community Development Sector will enhance the broader understanding of our function and role.

During the next year, we will be reviewing our membership to attract new groups in light of our new direction.

VACD will continue to be active in a role which allows it to input into the community development policies and initiatives at the various levels of government, and government departments, in order to create the productive atmosphere necessary for meaningful community economic development.

James Francois
Chairman